



U.S. Mint / News / Press Releases / 2022

# United States Mint Announces 2023 American Women Quarters™ Program Honorees

March 30, 2022

WASHINGTON – The United States Mint (Mint) is pleased to announce the following 2023 honorees for the American Women Quarters™ Program:

- **Bessie Coleman** – pilot, advocate, and pioneer who flew to great heights as the first African American and first Native American woman pilot, as well as the first African American to earn an international pilot's license.
- **Jovita Idar** – Mexican American journalist, activist, teacher, and suffragist. She devoted her life to fighting against separatist ideologies and sought to create a better future for Mexican Americans.
- **Edith Kanaka'ole** – indigenous Hawaiian composer, chanter, dancer, teacher, and entertainer. Her mo'olelo, or stories, served to rescue aspects of Hawaiian history, customs, and traditions that were disappearing due to the cultural bigotry of the time.
- **Eleanor Roosevelt** – first lady, author, reformer, and leader. As chairperson of the Human Rights Commission where she oversaw the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and as the first chair of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, she advocated diligently for the civil liberties and needs of the poor, minorities, and the disadvantaged.
- **Maria Tallchief** – America's first prima ballerina, she broke barriers as a Native American ballerina who exhibited strength and resilience both on and off the stage.



“The range of accomplishments and experiences of these extraordinary women speak to the contributions women have always made in the history of our country,” said Mint Deputy Director Ventris C. Gibson. “I am proud that the Mint continues to connect America through coins by honoring these pioneering women and their groundbreaking contributions to our society.”

Authorized by *Public Law 116-330*—the Circulating Collectible Coin Redesign Act of 2020—the American Women Quarters Program features coins with reverse (tails) designs emblematic of the accomplishments and contributions of prominent American women. Contributions come from a wide spectrum of fields including, but not limited to, suffrage, civil rights, abolition, government, humanities, science, space, and the arts. The women honored come from ethnically, racially, and geographically diverse backgrounds. As required by the public law, no living person will be featured in the coin designs, and thus all the women honored must be deceased. The Mint is issuing five coins with different reverse designs annually over the four-year period from 2022 through 2025.

The obverse (heads) depicts a portrait of George Washington originally composed and sculpted by Laura Gardin Fraser to mark George Washington's 200th birthday. Though her work was a recommended design for the 1932 quarter, then-Treasury Secretary Mellon ultimately selected the now-familiar John Flanagan design.

The obverse design is common to all quarters issued in the series. Inscriptions are be “LIBERTY,” “IN GOD WE TRUST,” and “2023.”

As stipulated by the public law, the Secretary of the Treasury selects the women to be honored following consultation with the Smithsonian Institution's American Women's History Initiative, the National Women's History Museum, and the Congressional Bipartisan Women's Caucus.

#### Numismatic Products

Explore the first circulating and numismatic quarter program that exclusively honors the achievements of women. This inspiring collection demonstrates what can be possible with determination, perseverance, and the indomitable spirit of American women by visiting <https://catalog.usmint.gov/coins/coin-programs/american-women-quarters-program/>

#### About the United States Mint

Congress created the United States Mint in 1792, and the Mint became part of the Department of the Treasury in 1873. As the Nation's sole manufacturer of legal tender coinage, the Mint is responsible for producing circulating coinage for the Nation to conduct its trade and commerce. The Mint also produces numismatic products, including proof, uncirculated, and commemorative coins; Congressional Gold Medals; silver and bronze medals; and silver and gold bullion coins. Its numismatic programs are self-sustaining and operate at no cost to taxpayers.

*Photo credit: Bessie Coleman portrait ©Scurlock Studio Records, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. Edith Kanaka'ole portrait ©franco salmoiraghi. Eleanor Roosevelt portrait ©Yousuf Karsh.*

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Visit <https://www.usmint.gov/learn/coin-and-medal-programs/american-women-quarters> for additional information about the American Women Quarters Program.
- Visit <https://www.usmint.gov/about> for information about the United States Mint.
- Visit <https://catalog.usmint.gov/email-signup> to subscribe to United States Mint electronic product notifications, news releases, and public statements.

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*United States Mint – Connecting America through Coins*

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#### Contact

Press Inquiries: Office of Corporate Communications (202) 354-7222

Customer Service Information: (800) USA MINT (872-6468)

#### Latest Press Releases

**March 20, 2023** - [2023 American Women Quarters Rolls and Bags™ – Edith Kanaka‘ole On Sale March 27](#)

**March 20, 2023** - [United States Mint Begins Shipping 2023 American Women Quarters™ Program Coins Honoring Edith Kanaka‘ole on March 27](#)

**March 16, 2023** - [2023 American Women Quarters Proof Set™ Goes on Sale March 21](#)

**February 27, 2023** - [United States Mint Releases U.S. Army 2.5 Ounce Silver Medal March 6](#)

**February 24, 2023** - [United States Mint 2023 American Eagle \(W\) Silver Proof Coin Available on March 2](#)

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